

DRAFT  
LRHouston/OGC  
13 July 1971

Dear Senator Symington:

The exchange of classified information with foreign governments is perhaps one of the most sensitive and complex aspects of the whole field of intelligence. It is also one of the most delicate fields in the role of intelligence in supporting the President in his responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs.

There is no uniform pattern, and each arrangement is tailored to the specific current circumstances. The only consistent theme throughout is that there are no continuing commitments. The arrangements are begun, terminated, altered, or renewed as the circumstances change.

Only a very small handful of officers in the Central Intelligence Agency has access to the totality of information concerning these arrangements. Since they do pertain to some of the most important and sensitive sources and methods for obtaining intelligence, and since they are of an ever-changing and transitory nature, I feel no useful purpose would be served

in transmitting a summary of such arrangements. Indeed, such transmission in itself, even on a classified basis, might endanger some most important sources.

I would, of course, be glad to discuss this problem with you.

Sincerely,

DCI